

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application as amended herein is respectfully requested. Claims 1-24 have been canceled without prejudice, and new claims 25-44 have been added. No new matter has been added.

Statement of Substance of Examiner Interview

In a January 30, 2008 telephone interview between the Examiner, and applicant's representatives¹, distinctions between the cited references and applicant's claims 1, 5 and 13 were discussed. No agreement was reached.

Objections to the Drawings

The drawings have been objected to for lacking "descriptive legends" in connection with elements of Figures 1-3. Applicant respectfully submits that the current drawings are in compliance with the requirements of 37 C.F.R. §1.174, but in the interest of advancing prosecution has nonetheless amended the drawings in the manner suggested in the Office Action.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §§ 102, 103

Claims 1-4 and 21 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by "Packet Classification on Multiple Fields" of Gupta et al. ("Gupta I");

Claim 13 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,374,326 to Kansal et al. ("Kansal");

Claims 5-10 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by "Packet Classification using Hierarchical Intelligent Cuttings" of Gupta et al. ("Gupta II");

Claim 24 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kansal;

Claims 14-20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kansal in view of Gupta I;

Claims 11-12 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gupta II in view of "Reducing Routing Table Size Using Ternary CAM" of Liu ("Liu"); and

Claims 22-23 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gupta I in view of Liu.

Applicant has canceled claims 1-24 without prejudice and respectfully submits that the

¹ Applicant was represented in the interview by Mr. Charles Shemwell (Reg. No. 40,171) and Mr. Yi-peng Li (Reg. No. 60,595), both of record.

section 102 and 103 rejections are moot.

Regarding newly added claims 25-34, applicant submits that none of the cited references disclose or suggest at least the following limitation:

adding the first rule to a third sub-database if the first bit is in a masked state, 'X', indicating that the first bit may be either a logic '1' or a logic '0' value

For example, none of the cited references disclose or suggest "adding the first rule to a *third* sub-database if the first bit is in a masked state, 'X'," as recited in claim 25.

Regarding newly added claims 35-38, applicant submits that, for at least the reasons given with respect to claim 25, none of the cited references disclose or suggest the following limitation:

selectively searching a third set of sub-databases if the first bit is in a masked state, 'X', indicating that the first bit may be either a logic '1' or a logic '0' value

Regarding newly added claims 39-43, applicant submits that, for at least the reasons given with respect to claim 25, none of the cited references disclose or suggest the following limitation:

circuitry to organize the plurality of rules into a hierarchical database of rules, including circuitry to store a first rule of the plurality of rules in either a first sub-database, a second sub-database, or a third sub-database according to whether a first bit of the first rule is a logic '0' value, a logic '1' value or in a masked state, 'X', respectively, the masked state indicating that the first bit may be either a logic '1' or a logic '0' value.

Regarding newly added claim 44, applicant submits that, for at least the reasons given with respect to claim 25, none of the cited references disclose or suggest the following limitation:

means for adding the first rule to a third sub-database if the first bit is in a masked state, 'X', indicating that the first bit may be either a logic '1' or a logic '0' value

Conclusion

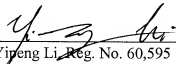
Applicant respectfully submits that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. If a telephone interview would be helpful in any way, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned agent.

Applicant hereby petitions for a 2 month extension of time.

The commissioner is hereby authorized to charge deposit account 50-1914 for any fee due in connection herewith, including any fee required for extension of time.

Respectfully submitted,
SHEMWELL MAHAMEDI LLP

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